IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Lee, et al. Examiner: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: Not yet assigned Confirmation No: Not yet assigned

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Acid Encoding And Antibodies Mailed on: September 19, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Binding Thereto

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above identified continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b), Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered. This document and the above identified application are further responsive to the Final Office Action mailed December 20, 2002(Paper No. 24) and Notice of Appeal filed March 19, 2003, filed in the parent application U.S.S.N. 09/104,063. This response is timely filed with a Petition and fees for 4-Month Extension of Time and fees thereby extending the response period to September 19, 2003.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.